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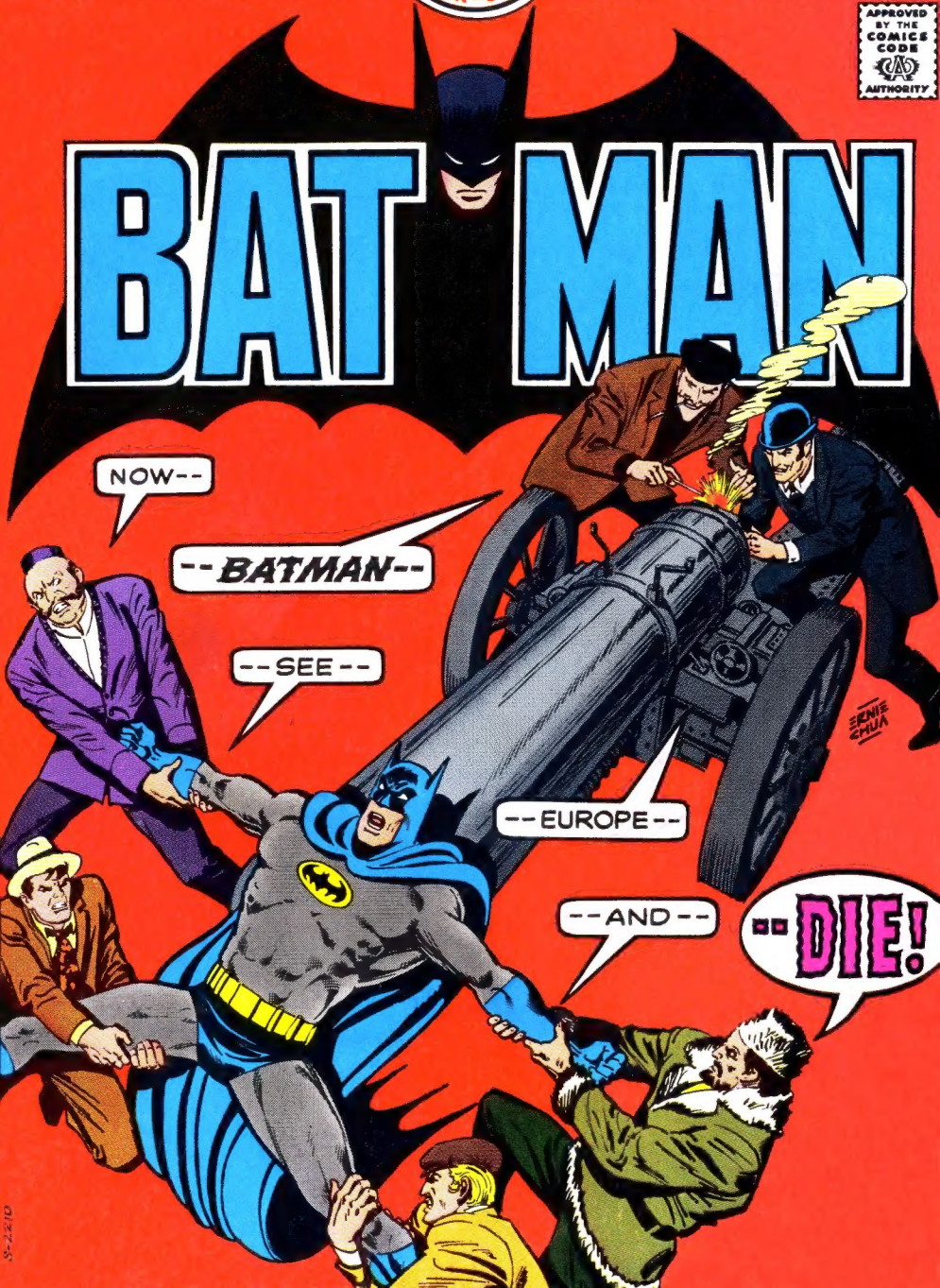
BAT MAN



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SO EVEN THOUGH THE *CAPED CRUSADER* NEVER MISSES A *CUE*, THIS IS...

THE BANK-SHOT THAT BAFFLED BATMAN

STORY BY: DAVID V. REED ART BY ERNIE CHUA & FRANK McLAUGHLIN EDITED BY JULIUS SCHWARTZ

S-2157

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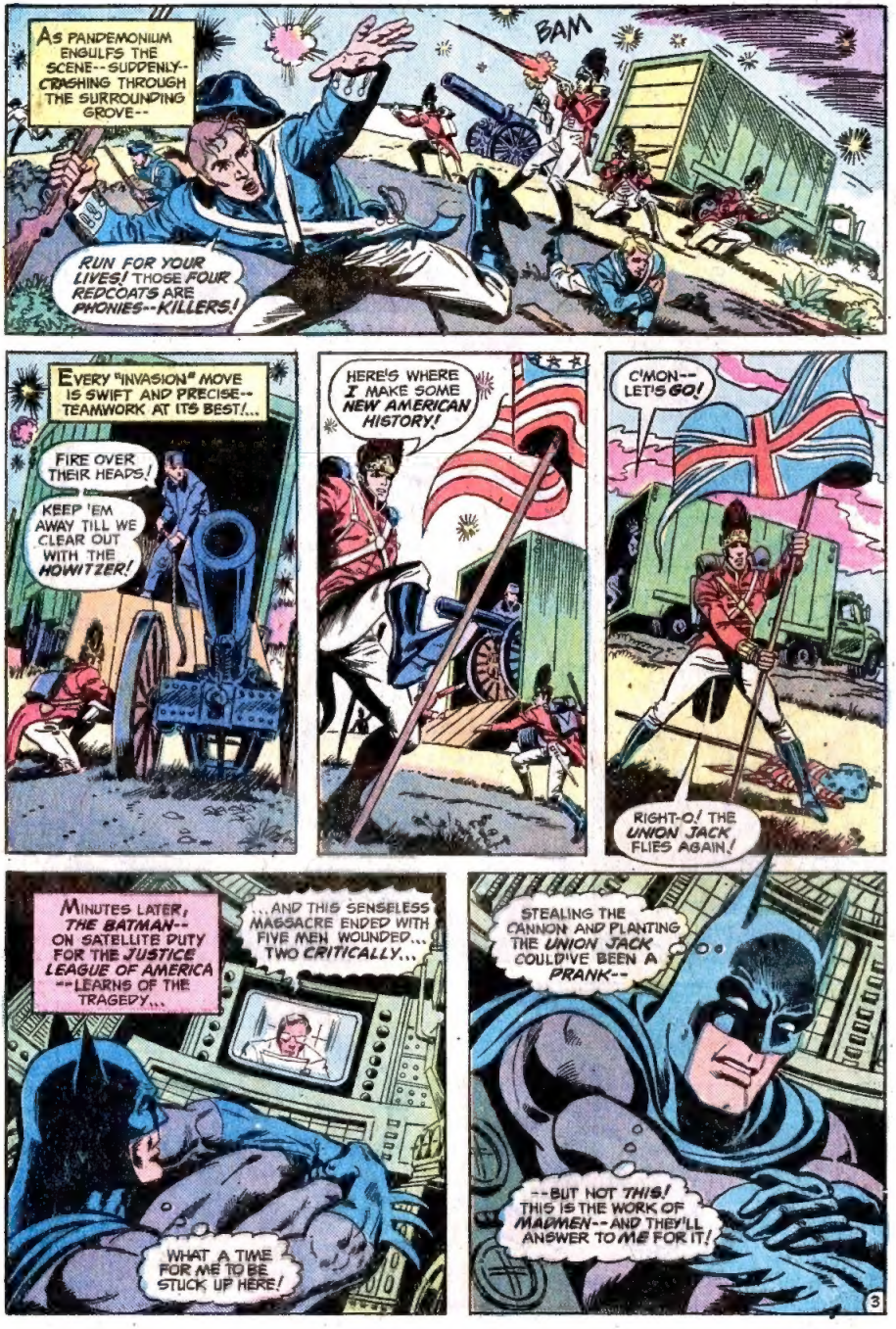
WITH THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL FAST APPROACHING, THE GOTHAM COLONIAL MINUTE MEN CORPS DEVOTES THIS PLEASANT AFTERNOON TO REHEARSING ITS HISTORIC PART IN THE COMING PAGEANTRY--
AS YOU KNOW, THIS CANNON--A HOWITZER CAPTURED FROM THE BRITISH--WAS PLACED HERE ON STANDISH HILL TO HELP GUARD THE HARBOR!
THREE TIMES THE REDCOATS STORMED THE HILL TO SILENCE THE CANNON--AND THREE TIMES THEY FAILED AND FINALLY WITHDREW!
WE'LL BEGIN BY RE-ENACTING THEIR FIRST ATTEMPT--WHICH STARTED WITH AN ADVANCE PARTY OF FOUR MEN!
NATURALLY, WE'RE ALL FIRING BLANKS...BUT FOR THE SAKE OF REALISM, A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF MEN SHOULD FALL ON BOTH SIDES!
PLACES, EVERYONE!
START ACTION WHEN THE REDCOAT BUGLER SOUNDS THE CHARGE!
ENTHUSIASTICALLY--ALMOST PLAYFULLY--THE MOCK BATTLE BEGINS--
BAM
CRACK
POW
BUT WITHIN MOMENTS--INEXPLICABLY--
STOP! THE MAJOR'S BEEN WOUNDED!
THE REDCOATS ARE USING REAL BULLETS!
I'VE BEEN SHOT TOO!
2


AS PANDEMONIUM ENGULFS THE SCENE--SUDDENLY--CRASHING THROUGH THE SURROUNDING GROVE--
BAM
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! THOSE FOUR REDCOATS ARE PHONIES--KILLERS!
EVERY "INVASION" MOVE IS SWIFT AND PRECISE--TEAMWORK AT ITS BEST!...
FIRE OVER THEIR HEADS!
KEEP 'EM AWAY TILL WE CLEAR OUT WITH THE HOWITZER!
HERE'S WHERE I MAKE SOME NEW AMERICAN HISTORY!
C'MON--LET'S GO!
RIGHT-O! THE UNION JACK FLIES AGAIN!
MINUTES LATER, THE BATMAN--ON SATELLITE DUTY FOR THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA--LEARNS OF THE TRAGEDY...
...AND THIS SENSELESS MASSACRE ENDED WITH FIVE MEN WOUNDED... TWO CRITICALLY...
WHAT A TIME FOR ME TO BE STUCK UP HERE!
STEALING THE CANNON AND PLANTING THE UNION JACK COULD'VE BEEN A PRANK--
--BUT NOT THIS! THIS IS THE WORK OF MADMEN--AND THEY'LL ANSWER TO ME FOR IT!
3

NEXT NIGHT--WHEN THE BATMAN VISITS THE SCENE OF THE CRIME WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON, THE VOW HE TOOK HAS A HOLLOW RING...
NOTHING! THE WHOLE AREA TRAMPLED...EVERY POSSIBLE CLUE OBLITERATED...
WELL, BATMAN--ANY THEORIES?... ANY CONCLUSIONS?
A HUNDRED THEORIES, COMMISSIONER--ALL OF THEM INCONCLUSIVE!
WE'LL PUT OUT SOME FEELERS, CONTACT THE GRAPEVINE...AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPS...
NEXT DAY, AT THE SECLUDED HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNDERWORLD OLYMPICS '76--WHERE THE CRIMINAL ELITE OF FIVE CONTINENTS HAVE ASSEMBLED IN GOTHAM CITY TO STAGE THEIR DEADLY COMPETITION...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE EUROPEAN TEAM HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED PHASE ONE OF ITS ASSIGNMENT--
--AND IS AWARDED TWENTY POINTS!
THE INTERNATIONAL GAMBLING FRATERNITY IS IMPRESSED--BUT CAUTIOUS...
THESE EUROPES HAVE CLASS! A QUICK TWENTY!
THE SOUTH AMERICANS STARTED GREAT, TOO--BUT FINISHED WITH A BIG FAT TWENTY!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.
4

WHAT TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY AND YOU'RE NOT A WEREWOLF.

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IN AN ADJOINING ROOM, WHERE THE EUROPEAN TEAM MEETS WITH ITS LIAISON MAN TO PREPARE FOR THE COMPLEX PHASES STILL AHEAD...
I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND YOU ENGLISHMEN, BUT WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THAT BRITISH FLAG BUSINESS--
--A CAPITALIST JOKE OR WHAT?
JOKE? WELL, A BIT OF WHIMSY, PERHAPS! AFTER ALL, THAT CANNON WAS ORIGINALLY BRITISH!
YOU FORGET, COBB, THAT THIS IS A COOPERATIVE ALL-EUROPEAN VENTURE!
THE PROJECTED PLANS FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMON THIEVES' MARKET MAY DEPEND ON HOW WE DO!
THE LIAISON MAN--REPRESENTING THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE--AND GENERAL FACTOTUM FOR THE TEAM--TAKES A HAND--
ALL RIGHT, GENTLEMEN, LET'S MOVE ALONG!
PAOLO, YOU'RE THE TEAM LEADER! WHERE DO THINGS STAND?
AFTER THIS MEETING, BORIS AND I WILL MAKE THE NEXT-TO-LAST DELIVERY! THEN, IF HELMUT IS READY TOMORROW WITH THE LAST PARTS--
--WE'LL DELIVER THEM IN THE AFTERNOON...AND BE SET FOR ACTION TOMORROW NIGHT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN IF I'M READY?
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE GREATEST GUNSMITH IN EUROPE TODAY--AND TOMORROW THE WORLD!
I WILL BE READY!
THAT EVENING--AS THE BATMAN CARRIES ON HIS IDENTITY--AND HIS OBLIGATIONS--AS BRUCE WAYNE...
THE BANK CLOSES AT NINE TONIGHT, MR. WAYNE! WILL YOU BE STAYING ON?
I HOPE NOT, HAINES--BUT I'M SWAMPED IN PAPERWORK...
5

AN HOUR LATER...
STILL PLENTY TO DO... AND I'M ALREADY BORED OUT OF MY MIND!
WHAT A WAY FOR THE BATMAN TO SPEND AN EVENING!
DOWN ON THE MAIN FLOOR OF THE BANK, IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL --OR SO IT SEEMS...
GOOD EVENING, MR. CHOMSKY, MR. CORSINI!
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR LATE TUESDAY NIGHT POLICY, I SEE...
YES, A GREAT CONVENIENCE! WE HAVE MORE PACKAGES FOR OUR SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES...
SUDDENLY--
THIS IS A STICKUP! NOBODY MOVE!
AND DON'T TRY THE ALARM SYSTEM-- IT'S OFF!
PLEASE-- DON'T HURT ANYONE! TAKE THE MONEY!
THANKS, WE'LL DO JUST THAT!
MAX-- FRANKIE-- CLEAR THE CASH DRAWERS!
AND YOU, MR. MANAGER-- TAKE ME TO THE SAFETY DEPOSIT VAULT!
A FEW MINUTES LATER--
LOOK, PAOLO-- HE'S GOT ONE OF OUR BOXES!
WE CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT-- OR OUR WHOLE CAPER IS RUINED!
6

BUT AS BORIS AND PAOLO MAKE THEIR MOVE--
RATATATAT
HOLD IT, YOU TWO--OR I'LL BLOW YOUR HEADS OFF!
MACHINE-GUN FIRE--?!
WITHIN SECONDS...
MASK OR NO MASK, I KNOW WHO THAT IS--SPEED DURKIN --FRESH OUT OF JAIL AND BACK IN BUSINESS WITH A NEW GANG!
ANY SHOOTING HERE WOULD MEAN SLAUGHTER! GOT TO TAKE 'EM FAST!
LET'S CUT OUT!
JUST A SEC--WE'RE ALMOST THROUGH!
WRONG! YOU'RE THROUGH RIGHT NOW!
WOMP

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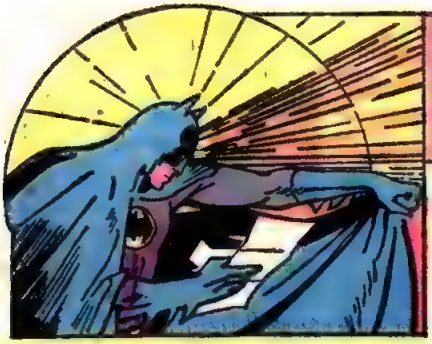

S-2219

LETTERS to the BATMAN

c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Editor:

In his voluminous tome on the pulps, Tony Goodstone says of Dashiell Hammett's stories, "... just as you think you have it all figured out, it takes several unexpected turns and ends up with a bang." So it was with the Hammett-inspired "Daily Death of Terry Tremayne" by David V. Reed.

From the pulp-like cover with **Batman** shielding his leggy companion to the "hard-boiled detective" characterization of the Caped Crusader, **BATMAN #269** came off like something from a bygone era of American popular culture. And with elusive art treasures and the hero regretfully arresting his leading lady, the nostalgic aura of the tale was enhanced—in "Spades".

But let's get back to the twists taken when things looked like they were solved. The story could have ended with the capture of Janghurst and Hakes. By that time, every element of the typical **Batman** tale—action, deduction, atmosphere, a deadly "inescapable" trap, and a seeming resolution—had taken place. Yet, in true Hammett style, Reed kept things moving up to an ending which, although unforeseen, explained everything that had gone on until that point, including the loose ends **Batman** brings up on pages 14 and 15.

What more can be said about this tribute to an author "who showed mystery writers the way to go" than "Way to go!"

RAY ENGELBERG, Bronx, N.Y.

(Overwhelming approval greeted our Hammett-esque Batman story, from people who have read the tales of Sam Spade, the Continental Op and The Thin Man and those who haven't. To readers who haven't sampled Mr. Hammett's works, we suggest you try "The Maltese Falcon", "The Glass Key" or one of his other classics.—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

The degree of my respect for the David V. Reed/Ernie Chua team is growing in leaps and bounds, and **BATMAN #269** was no exception in their era of greatness. Half the reason Dave's stories turn out so well is Ernie's graphic artwork. The more I look at the panel layouts, the more I like them. On pages 9, 13, and 14, we see prime examples of how the varying panels keep the action flowing smoothly. Panels with no word balloons give us the chance to concentrate on the action and review the tremendous art.

I liked the use of exotic weapons and the fight with the swords. **Batman's** quick thinking was fully demonstrated by the way he protected himself from the poison darts with those fancy shields. But the real highlight was the amount of action—I counted 4 fights! And Dave seemed to be giving **Batman** a more developed sense of humor. He's started to pun around and showed a grim sort of jest when he "burned" the criminals out from behind the fireplace. This is okay, as long as you don't overdo it!

ROD McLAUGHLIN, Ramsey, Mont.

(While Batman may crack a joke once in a while, you can be sure he won't spend an issue trying to keep you McLaughing!—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Mr. Schwartz,

BATMAN #269, the Dashiell Hammett-"Maltese Falcon" tribute, was somewhat disappointing. Ernie Chua seems to be settling in as the main artist for **Batman** and, while he is unfortunately perpetuating the over-muscled, pinheaded version of the darknight detective, he does use some remarkably inventive positions to convey the cat-like agility so necessary for him. The problem with "The Daily Death of Terry Tremayne" came not from the artist, but from the writer.

Hammett's gallery of grotesque gargoyles in "The Maltese Falcon" are transformed here into the usual faceless hoods **Batman** mops up every issue. The fabled Florentine Box seems thrown in as an afterthought and never attains the power and mystery it should have. But the crucial weakness here was the Terry-**Batman** romance. **Batman** comes off here like a dupe—he really seems the foppish, unperceptive playboy with a naive crush that Bruce Wayne pretends to be. Many of the classic **Batman**-Catwoman tales captured the Hammett romance more truly and with less effort.

While I commend the spirit of this tribute, more concentration on the details could have made it a masterpiece rather than merely an entertaining puzzle.

JONATHAN KUNTZ, Los Angeles, Cal.

(Our purpose was a tribute to Dashiell Hammett and a story in the tradition of "The Maltese Falcon", Jon, not a detail-for-detail copy you seem to think we were trying for!—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Julie,

The combination of Hammett and **Batman** worked excellently in the hands of David Reed and Ernie Chua—why not expand to other mystery writers like Doyle, Carr, Queen, etc?

TOR JONASSEN, Morton, Pa.

(We've beat you to the punch, Tor. Coming up in DETECTIVE #459 is a Marty Pasko-scripted Batman tale a la Ellery Queen and Denny O'Neil will be working on one in the Ed McBain style!—Bob Rozakis)

SHAZAM!
The CUP CAKE CAPER
HOLY MOLEY! WE'VE JUST GOTTEN WORD THAT THE STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE OF CUP CAKES AROUND THE WORLD IS CONTINUING!
UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE ABOUT THESE CUP CAKE CROOKS, KIDS COULD BE IN REAL TROUBLE!
IF ONLY WE COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH CAPTAIN MARVEL!
SHAZAM!
BAM!
OBVIOUSLY, THERE'S A CUP CAKE CAPER. MY PROBLEM IS TO FIND WHO'S BEHIND IT—AND WHERE THEY'VE STASHED THE GOODIES.
PUT THOSE HOSTESS CUP CAKES OVER THERE, MAX.
RIGHT, CHIEF.
THAT COMPLETES THE CUP CAKE CAPER. WE'VE GOT ALL THE CUP CAKES NOW.
NOT SO FAST, DUMB ONE.
I SUPPOSE YOU WANT US TO RETURN THESE HOSTESS CUP CAKES TO THE KIDS, JUST BECAUSE THEY LIKE THE DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE, CHOCOLATY ICING AND CREAMY FILLING.
THAT'S CORRECT, MY FIENDISH FRIEND. THAT'S WHY I'M ENDING YOUR CAPER RIGHT NOW!
THANKS FOR ENDING THE CUP CAKE CAPER, CAPTAIN MARVEL.
THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR, KIDS!
CUP CAKES

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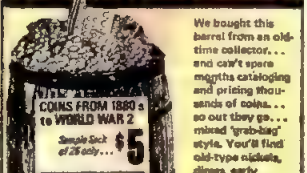

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--A REPEAT PERFORMANCE!
ZZZOP
8

FOR A MOMENT THE BATTLE SEEMS OVER...THE ROBBERY FOILED--BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT!
BATMAN--THE CROOK WITH THE SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES GOT AWAY!
NOT FOR LONG--I KNOW THAT PUNK!
SOON AFTERWARD--AT THE HQ OF THE EUROPEAN TEAM--
THE WORST IMAGINABLE LUCK! SOME SECOND-RATE MOB CAME IN--STARTED GRABBING ALL THE CASH...
...AND SEVERAL SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES--ALONG WITH OURS!
THEN--FROM NOWHERE--THE BATMAN APPEARED! THAT WAS THE END OF THE HOLD-UP--
--EXCEPT FOR THE ONE WHO GOT AWAY IN THE CONFUSION --THE ONE WITH THE BOXES!
BUT WHAT ABOUT BORIS? WHERE IS HE?
I DON'T KNOW! AFTER HANDING ME THE PACKAGES WE HAD BROUGHT, HE...DISAPPEARED!
WE'RE RUINED! WE NEED EVERY SINGLE BOX!
I CAN'T SUBSTITUTE FOR ANY OF THE PARTS IN THE TIME REMAINING!
HERR LIAISON MAN, WE MUST HAVE AN EXTENSION!
NEGATIVE, HELMUT...THE RULES FORBID IT!
CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING!
9

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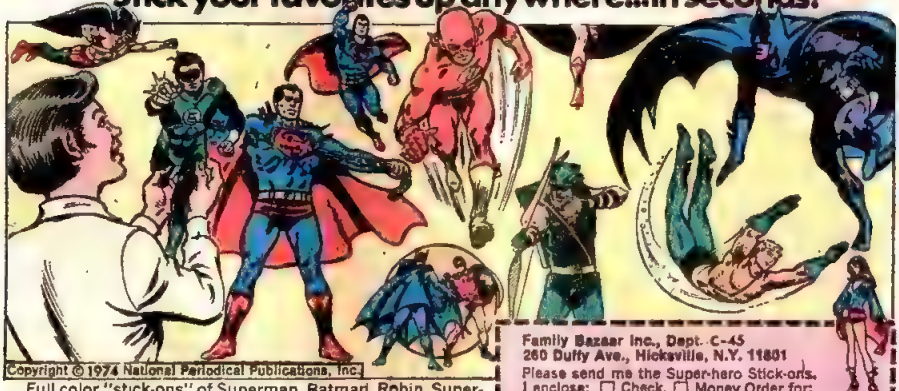

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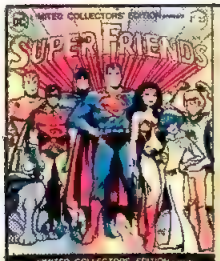

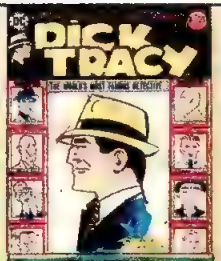

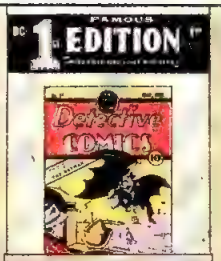

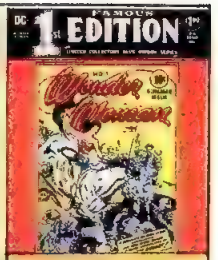

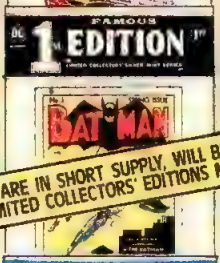

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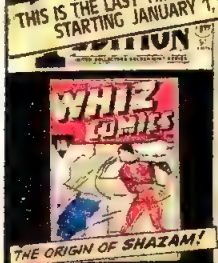

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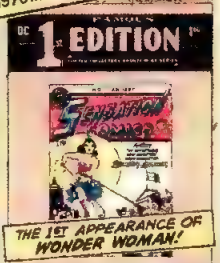

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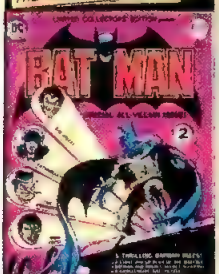

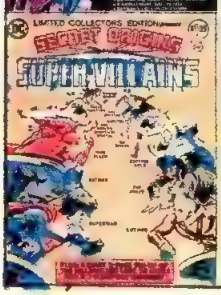

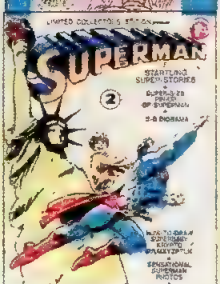

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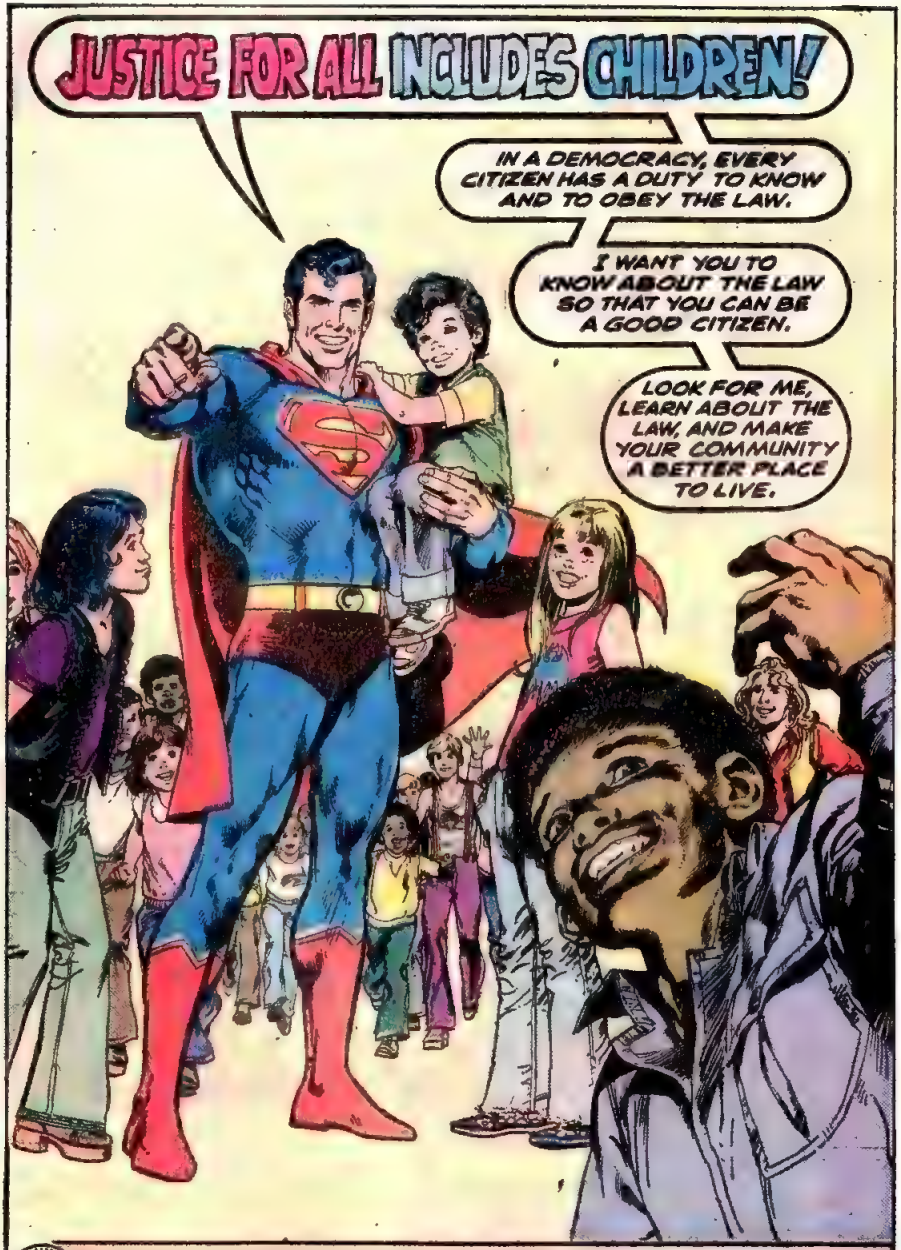
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I WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT THE LAW SO THAT YOU CAN BE A GOOD CITIZEN.
LOOK FOR ME, LEARN ABOUT THE LAW, AND MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

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MEANWHILE... IN ANOTHER PART OF GOTHAM...
SAME OLD SPEED DURKIN, WITH THE SAME OLD M.O.--
FIVE MEN... NIGHT BANK-HEIST.. AND A GRAB-BAG SAMPLE OF THE SAFETY DEPOSIT VAULT!
CAN'T CHANGE HIS M.O. ANY MORE THAN A LEOPARD CAN CHANGE HIS SPOTS!
AND THAT INCLUDES THE FENCE HE ALWAYS RAN TO--SIMON HAKES!
TWENTY SECONDS LATER...
THE BATMAN!
I WARNED YOU, SPEED-- YOU IDIOT!
KRACK
SO DID I, SIMON-- MANY TIMES!
THAT'S A GOOD BOY, SPEED--JUST BEHAVE YOURSELF --AND I'LL REMOVE YOUR GUN PAINLESSLY!
THEN WE'LL SLAP THE CUFFS ON AND CALL IT A GOOD NIGHT'S WORK FOR ALL OF US--
--ONLY MY NIGHT TURNED OUT BETTER THAN YOURS!
KRONK
10

FOR AN INSTANT OR TWO, THE BATMAN REELS FROM THE CRUSHING IMPACT--
BUT SWIFT AS HIS RECOVERY IS--
PROBABLY ANOTHER TWO-BIT THUG WHO KNEW ABOUT THE BANK JOB AND CAME HERE TO HIJACK IT... THEN SAW ME AND CHANGED HIS MIND!
WELL, THIS BUSINESS COMES FIRST! I'LL WIND IT UP AND SEE ABOUT OUR VISITOR LATER!
SHORTLY THEREAFTER-- THE EUROPEAN TEAM JOYOUSLY WELCOMES A RETURNING HERO!...
COMRADES-- THE MISSING BOX-- COMPLIMENTS OF BORIS CHOMSKY!
HOW DID YOU EVER GET IT?
I HEARD THE BATMAN SAY HE KNEW WHO HAD THE BOX--SO I SIMPLY FOLLOWED HIM-- AND TOOK IT AWAY!
SACRE--! HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY FOLLOW THE BATMAN?
OR EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE--TAKE THE BOX AWAY FROM HIM?
DOES A MAGICIAN REVEAL HIS SECRETS? CREDIT IT TO MY EXCELLENT TRAINING IN THE RUSSIAN K.G.B.!
AM I NOT CONTRIBUTING MY TALENTS COOPERATIVELY!... HAVE I NOT SAVED THE TEAM EFFORT?
BORIS IS RIGHT! NOW EVERYTHING IS RESTORED!
TOMORROW WE RETURN THIS BOX SECRETLY... TOGETHER WITH OUR LAST DELIVERY ...AND WE PROCEED-- ON SCHEDULE!
GENTLEMEN, A TOAST TO BORIS!
CONTINUED ON THE PAGE FOLLOWING.

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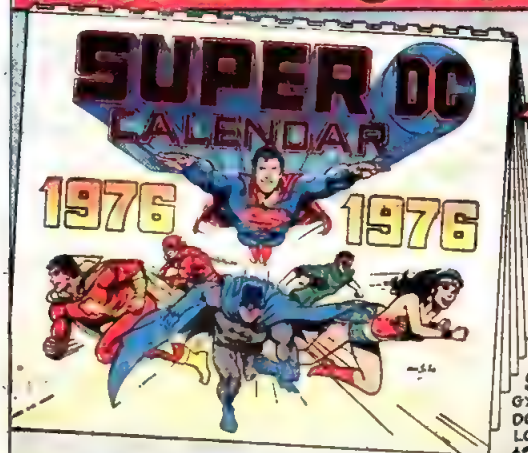

AND SEE IT AT A GLANCE WITH YOUR OWN

NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, VIEW EACH MONTH WITH A SUPER FRIEND !!

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SUPER STUNTCYCLES

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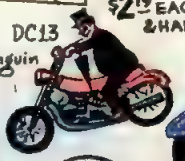
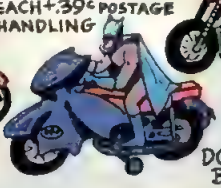

DC13 Penguin


DC12 Batman

DC11 Joker

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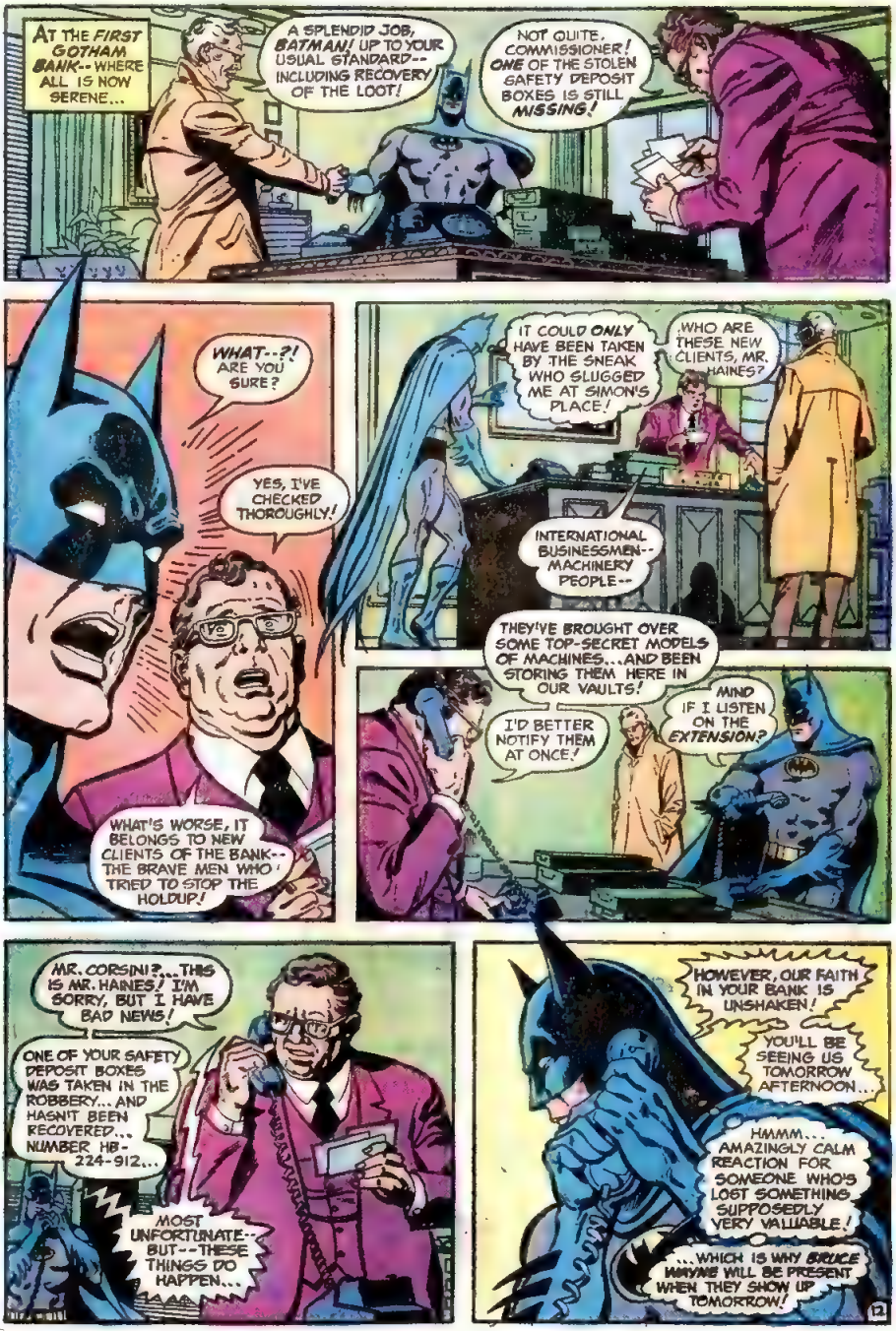
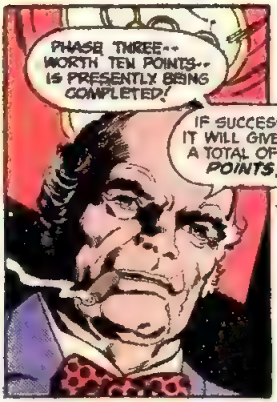
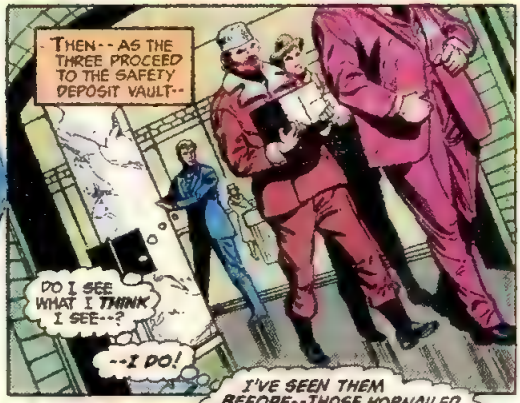

AT THE FIRST GOTHAM BANK--WHERE ALL IS NOW SERENE...
A SPLENDID JOB, BATMAN! UP TO YOUR USUAL STANDARD--INCLUDING RECOVERY OF THE LOOT!
NOT QUITE, COMMISSIONER! ONE OF THE STOLEN SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES IS STILL MISSING!
WHAT--?! ARE YOU SURE?
YES, I'VE CHECKED THOROUGHLY!
WHAT'S WORSE, IT BELONGS TO NEW CLIENTS OF THE BANK--THE BRAVE MEN WHO TRIED TO STOP THE HOLDUP!
IT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE SNEAK WHO SLUGGED ME AT SIMON'S PLACE!
WHO ARE THESE NEW CLIENTS, MR. HAINES?
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSMEN--MACHINERY PEOPLE--
THEY'VE BROUGHT OVER SOME TOP-SECRET MODELS OF MACHINES...AND BEEN STORING THEM HERE IN OUR VAULTS!
I'D BETTER NOTIFY THEM AT ONCE!
MIND IF I LISTEN ON THE EXTENSION?
MR. CORSINI?...THIS IS MR. HAINES! I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE BAD NEWS!
ONE OF YOUR SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES WAS TAKEN IN THE ROBBERY...AND HASN'T BEEN RECOVERED...NUMBER HB-224-912...
MOST UNFORTUNATE--BUT--THESE THINGS DO HAPPEN...
HOWEVER, OUR FAITH IN YOUR BANK IS UNSHAKEN!
YOU'LL BE SEEING US TOMORROW AFTERNOON...
HMMM...AMAZINGLY CALM REACTION FOR SOMEONE WHO'S LOST SOMETHING SUPPOSEDLY VERY VALUABLE!
...WHICH IS WHY BRUCE WAYNE WILL BE PRESENT WHEN THEY SHOW UP TOMORROW!
12

THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON-- AT U.O. '76--
A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE EUROPEAN TEAM--
IN ADDITION TO THEIR INITIAL TWENTY POINTS, THEY HAVE SCORED ANOTHER TWENTY-- FOR CONVERTING THE CANNON!


PHASE THREE-- WORTH TEN POINTS-- IS PRESENTLY BEING COMPLETED!
IF SUCCESSFUL IT WILL GIVE THEM A TOTAL OF FIFTY POINTS!

THE BIG E IS HALFWAY HOME AND HASN'T SUFFERED A PENALTY YET!
SEVEN TO FIVE THEY FINISH WITH A SIXTY!
EVEN MONEY THEY DO BETTER!
COVERED!

SIMULTANEOUSLY-- AT THE FIRST GOTHAM BANK-- BRUCE WAYNE DOES A LITTLE DAYLIGHT RECONNOITERING FOR THE BATMAN--
THERE THEY ARE--THE COOL MR. CORSINI AND HIS PARTNER, MR. CHOMSKY... AND RATHER HEAVILY WEIGHED DOWN...


THEN--AS THE THREE PROCEED TO THE SAFETY DEPOSIT VAULT--
DO I SEE WHAT I THINK I SEE--?
--I DO!

I'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE--THOSE HOBNAILED HEELS OF CHOMSKY'S--DIVING OUT OF SIMON'S WINDOW LAST NIGHT!
13

...SO IT MUST'VE BEEN CHOMSKY WHO SOMEHOW FOLLOWED ME THERE--ZONKED ME--AND TOOK HIS BOX BACK!
WHY?...DIDN'T HE THINK THE BATMAN WOULD RETURN IT?...OR WAS HE AFRAID IT MIGHT BE OPENED--AND ITS CONTENTS REVEALED?
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT--AND IT'LL TAKE THE BATMAN TO DO IT--TONIGHT!
THAT EVENING...AS TWILIGHT YIELDS TO DARKNESS--
VERY CONVENIENT HAVING BRUCE WAYNE'S KEYS! SAVES TIME...TEMPER...
...AND MONKEYING WITH THE BANK-ALARM!
NOR DOES THE SAFETY DEPOSIT VAULT PRESENT A PROBLEM TO THE PRIVILEGED KEYS--
QUITE A FEW BOXES ON THIS LIST CREDITED TO CORSINI AND CHOMSKY...
BUT THE SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES THEMSELVES ARE SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN---A CHALLENGE EVEN TO THE BATMAN--
PICKING THESE LOCKS IS NO PICNIC--BUT WHAT'S IN THE BOXES IS ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING...
...CHUNKS AND SECTIONS OF METAL ...ALL BEAUTIFULLY MACHINED...ADDING UP TO WHAT?
ALMOST AN HOUR HAS PASSED AS THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE WORKS ON...PAINSTAKINGLY ...PATIENTLY...
IT'S LIKE PUTTING TOGETHER A JIGSAW PUZZLE! LITTLE BY LITTLE IT BEGINS TO MAKE SENSE...
AND IN THIS CASE--UTTERLY DEADLY SENSE!
FINALLY--
THE COLONIAL CANNON STOLEN FROM STANDISH HILL--CUT APART--BUT EASILY RE-ASSEMBLED IF YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW HOW!
OUTWARDLY, IT LOOKS THE SAME--BUT INSIDE, THE BARREL AND FIRING MECHANISM HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO PERFECT WORKING ORDER!
14

AND THIS ARTILLERY SHELL...FULLY CHARGED ...HOLLOW INSIDE...TIPPED WITH MAGNESIUM ALLOY THAT COULD PIERCE A BATTLESHIP!
IT'S READY FOR FIRING--AND FROM CHOMSKY'S DESPERATION TO GET THE MISSING SECTION, I'D SAY IT'S TONIGHT!
BUT WHY?--AND WHERE?
THE WHY CAN WAIT--BUT THE WHERE NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION!
THIS INVISIBLE COATING OF URANIUM NITRATE WILL MAKE IT AS LUMINESCENT AS A METEOR... PROPERLY VIEWED!
NOW TO REPLACE EVERYTHING AS IT WAS!
SOON AFTER--FROM BRUCE WAYNE'S OFFICE UPSTAIRS--
ALFRED... LISTEN CAREFULLY!
GET THE ULTRA-VIOLET LENS FIELD GLASSES--GO OUT ON THE TERRACE--AND AIM TOWARDS THE FIRST GOTHAM BANK!
WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING VERY BRIGHT COMING FROM THERE--
--TRACK ITS TRAJECTORY! I'VE GOT THE BATMOBILE HIDDEN NEARBY--
--AND I'LL BE CALLING YOU FROM IT FOR THE INFORMATION!
AFTER ANOTHER HOUR PASSES UNEVENTFULLY--
THEY'RE IN--HEADING FOR THE VAULT--
--APPARENTLY PAST MASTERS WITH LOCKS AND ALARMS!
BACK IN BRUCE'S OFFICE--EAVES-DROPPING VIA STETHOSCOPE!..
I'M ALL SET... NOW, NIKOS, CHOOSE SOMEBODY'S SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX...ANY BOX!
ARMAND--INSERT THE BOX INTO THE SHELL!
VOILÁ, HELMUT!
NIKOS?... ARMAND?... HELMUT?... SOUNDS LIKE THE U.N. DOWN THERE!
WELL, THEY BETTER GET READY FOR MY VETO!
CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING
15

Fast Track to a Cool Job!

★TRAIN AT HOME TO BE A

Motorcycle Mechanic

If you like to ride a cycle for fun... learn how to fix it for profit! Can you imagine a better way to earn your living? And to make it even better, the pay is great—whether you choose to work in a cycle shop for someone else or decide to start your own cycle repair business.

Now, thanks to North American, there's a fast, easy way to get the training you need . . . at home in your spare time. No need to quit school or your job. Experts show you step-by-step everything from minor tune-ups to major overhauls.

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More than 3 million cycles are registered in the U.S. today. Plus an estimated 3 million more dirt bikes. But, there are fewer than 10,000 motorcycle mechanics available to repair them. No wonder career opportunities are so great . . . and getting better every day. Rush coupon for FREE "Motorcycle Mechanic Career Kit."

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Get all the facts now... without obligation. Be the first in your neighborhood to cash in on the big demand for motorcycle mechanics. **Mail Coupon Now!**

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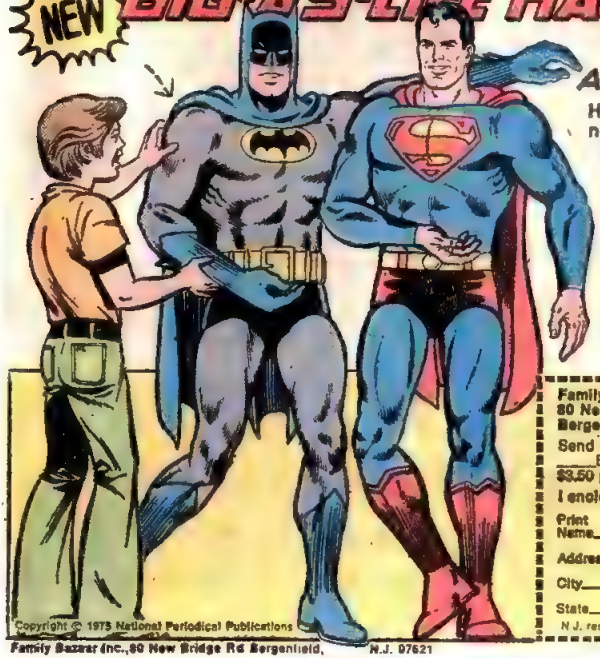
Rush FREE "CAREER KIT" on how I can become an expert motorcycle mechanic. No salesman will call.

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NEW BIG-AS-LIFE HANG-UPS! WITH MOVABLE ARMS AND LEGS!



Here's Superman and Batman like never before! Life-size pin-ups you can pose any way you want! Pose 'em flying, or guarding the door, or snap your picture with them! It's like having a Super-friend around the house. Each hero is yours for only $3.50 plus 75¢ postage and handling. **Your money back if not completely satisfied.** Mail the coupon. We'll send Superman or Batman (or both) right out.

$3.50

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Bergenfield, N.J. 07621

Send me: (Please indicate quantity)
_____Batman, _____Superman, each at $3.50 plus 75¢ post. & handling. ($4.25)
I enclose ☐ check, ☐ or M.O. for _____

Print Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
N.J. residents add sales tax. (allow 4 weeks for delivery.)

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MAGIC

Fool all your friends with these mystifying magic tricks

LOOK!

Have FUN— Make Magic Your Hobby

ESCAPE FROM ANY PAIR OF HANDCUFFS. Perhaps Houdini escaped this way—perhaps not. We'll never know. He took his secret with him. But once you possess our secret, you can escape almost instantly from ANY pair of handcuffs. And you can work this immediately. No picks or extra sets of keys used. Sold only if you promise to keep this secret.

No. S90 50¢

MYSTERIOUS EGG PRODUCTION. Produces egg after egg from folds of empty handkerchief. Then more eggs. All of these are poured one after another into a hat. Now for a climax: you throw contents of hat out to audience and believe it or not, all eggs have vanished ! ! !

No. S3 50¢

FLOWERS FROM FINGER-TIPS. First you show empty hand. Then you reach into the air and produce flower after flower, throwing them into a hat. But wait! When they look into the hat all the flowers have vanished. Easy to do.

No. 175 $1.50

SIX DIFFERENT DRINKS FROM ONE BOTTLE. They all a bottle full of plain water for you to prove there's no trickery. Yet you instantly pour the water into 6 different glasses and each glass becomes a different flavored drink. One is orange, another cola, another lemonade, etc. Then pass out to audience to drink. Very colorful. Easy to do.

No. S58 50¢

VANISHING WHISKEY GLASS. Show glass full of any liquid. Place between hands. Open hands and both glass and liquid are GONE ! ! ! Vanished clean as a whistle. Both hands are empty. Looks ! ! You can do it. No experience necessary. For a climax you can instantly reproduce both glass and liquid. Fellows, this is real magic it's a miracle.

No. 173 $1.95

WALKING THRU STEEL. This famous trick has been performed by magicians for years. With the secret and illustrations in your possession you too can do the impossible and walk thru a steel or even glass plate. Here's your chance to really baffle and amaze everyone. Easy to do.

No. S73 50¢

GALAXY MYSTERY TENT. Something different. A small tent surrounded with lighted candles so entire tent is transparent when flaps are opened to prove there are no changing or double compartments. Then you close flaps and reach into top and pull out a rabbit, bike or other item. A large almost unlimited load is possible. Secret & plans. This is great magic.

No. S8 $1.00

FLASHING EYES. Used by many magicians! By simply blinking your eyes open and shut, they appear as streaks of lightning. Brilliant sparks seem to flash out of your eyes. The more you blink, the more sparks and flashes seem to fly out. Easy to do. No wires! No chemicals! Absolutely safe. A beautiful effect. Very astonishing!

No. S6 50¢

LIFE-SIZE PRODUCTION CABINET. Seen on T.V. Open both doors to show it's empty, walk right through it, close doors and even swing it around. Yet one or even two girls will walk right out of it. Can also be used as a double exchange; a boy walks in — girl comes out. Secret and plans. Real professional stuff.

No. S30 $1.00

Explosive Matches

The back row has the regular matches. The front row are the exploding kind. You take a match from the back row which gives a light in the regular way and hand it to your fellow smoker who gets a big surprise as the match from the front explodes.

Only 50¢ pack
3/$1.-20/$4.95

THE MYSTERY HOUSE. A real haunted house with a ghost lurking somewhere inside. He's right there in front of your eyes looking right at you, but you can't see him!! Once you know the secret you can find him instantly. Friends will tell you Mr. Ghost is not there but you know better and show them. Very popular!

No. S-81 Price 2 for 50¢

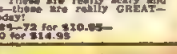
"Flash" Paper

FIRE FROM YOUR FINGERTIPS. Hottest trick in years! Thousands of joke, magic & trick uses. "Flash Paper" breaks in brilliant flash of flame when touched by lighted cigarette, match-head after being blown out or hot object. A small piece crumpled in ash tray is terrific joke.

Magicians hold in fingers since quick flash does not generate much heat. Comes in pad of 20 sheets. Use one sheet, or less, at a time.

$1.25 pad-10/$9.95 No. J-20

THEATRICAL MAGIC SMOKE



Light one of these, and watch all that thick colored smoke pour out! This is the same type of smoke that magician's use to make themselves vanish and appear! These are really scary and GREAT FUN! Guys—these are really GREAT—so order PLENTY today!

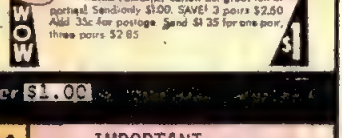
12 for $1.95—72 for $10.95—
100 for $14.95

REAL MAGICIAN'S TOP HATS-Black
Specify size-small, med., or large.
$4.98 plus $1.00 special packing.

THROW YOUR VOICE!

Learn to throw your voice & make it come out of a suitcase, trunk, closet or throw it across the street. GREAT FUN! Gimmick lies flat on tongue, concealed & used with above for bird calls, etc. FREE booklet on Ventriloquism with each order!

2 for $1.00 — 10 for $2.95



Apparently see bones thru skin, read in pencil, figure thru comes, etc. Scientific optical idea that really works. Fantastic! Eerie.. but great fun at parties! Seriously $1.00. SAVE! 3 pairs $2.50 Add 35¢ for postage. Send $1.35 for one pair, three pairs $2.85

Sorry! Cannot handle orders under $1.00

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New Jersey Residents - Please Add 5% Sales Tax

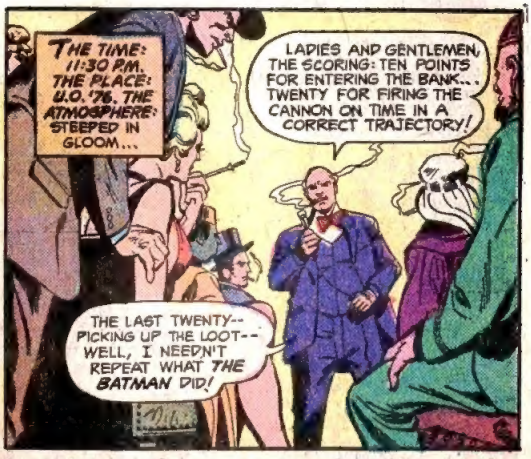
IMPORTANT

You must add 35¢ to all orders for postage. IF YOU LIVE OUT OF U.S.A. ADD $1.00. For Special RUSH Service add $1.00 EXTRA!

DOWN BELOW--IN THE VAULT--
WE'RE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!
HOLD YOUR EARS!--HERE WE GO!
BA-A-RROOM
PERFECT!
THE OTHERS ARE WAITING FOR US TO JOIN THEM! LET'S GO!
GO WHERE?
MON DIEU! --LE BATMAN!
POW
I'D LIKE TO--
ZOP
--STAY LONGER BUT--
KPOW
--TIME'S A-WASTIN'!

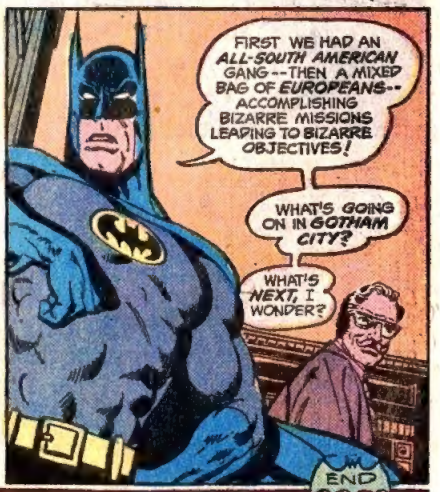
AS THE DUST SETTLES--
YOU GOT IN NOW SEE IF YOU CAN GET OUT!
WITHIN MOMENTS--
ALFRED--START TALKING!
MASTER BRUCE, YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT--SHOWERS OF SPARKS--LIKE SHOOTING STARS--
WE'LL DISCUSS ASTRONOMY LATER! GIVE ME THE FIX!
POINT 7-N BY N-E POINT NINE, SIR!
POINT NINE--FOUR MINUTES AWAY--RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF STANDISH HILL! I SHOULD'VE GUESSED IT!
BUT HOW CAN YOU GUESS ANYTHING WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH MANIACS?
FOUR MINUTES LATER--
BLIMEY!--THE BATMAN!
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT, COUSIN--!
HELLO, COMRADE CHOMSKY!
CRACK
GOOD-BYE, COMRADE CHOMSKY!
ADDIO, SIGNOR CORSINI!
ZOCK
AND YOU--I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME--
THOCK
--BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO BE FORMAL, DO WE?
17

IT'S LIKE A HISTORICAL REPLAY ON HISTORICAL GROUND--
AND ALL THE KING'S HORSES.... AND ALL THE KING'S MEN... COULDN'T PUT THEM TOGETHER AGAIN!


THE TIME: 11:30 P.M. THE PLACE: U.O. '76. THE ATMOSPHERE: STEEPED IN GLOOM...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE SCORING: TEN POINTS FOR ENTERING THE BANK... TWENTY FOR FIRING THE CANNON ON TIME IN A CORRECT TRAJECTORY!
THE LAST TWENTY-- PICKING UP THE LOOT-- WELL, I NEEDN'T REPEAT WHAT THE BATMAN DID!

THIS ADDS UP TO EIGHTY! HOWEVER, SINCE THE ENTIRE EUROPEAN TEAM WAS CAPTURED, A THIRTY-POINT PENALTY MAKES A FINAL SCORE OF FIFTY!

WHILE AT COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE--
THIS SHELL SHOULD MAKE A FINE ADDITION TO YOUR TROPHY ROOM!
BUT WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT, BATMAN?


FIRST WE HAD AN ALL-SOUTH AMERICAN GANG--THEN A MIXED BAG OF EUROPEANS-- ACCOMPLISHING BIZARRE MISSIONS LEADING TO BIZARRE OBJECTIVES!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN GOTHAM CITY?
WHAT'S NEXT, I WONDER?
THE END

COMING UP NEXT IN THE INTERWORLD OLYMPICS '76-- "GOTHAM CITY TREASURE HUNT!"

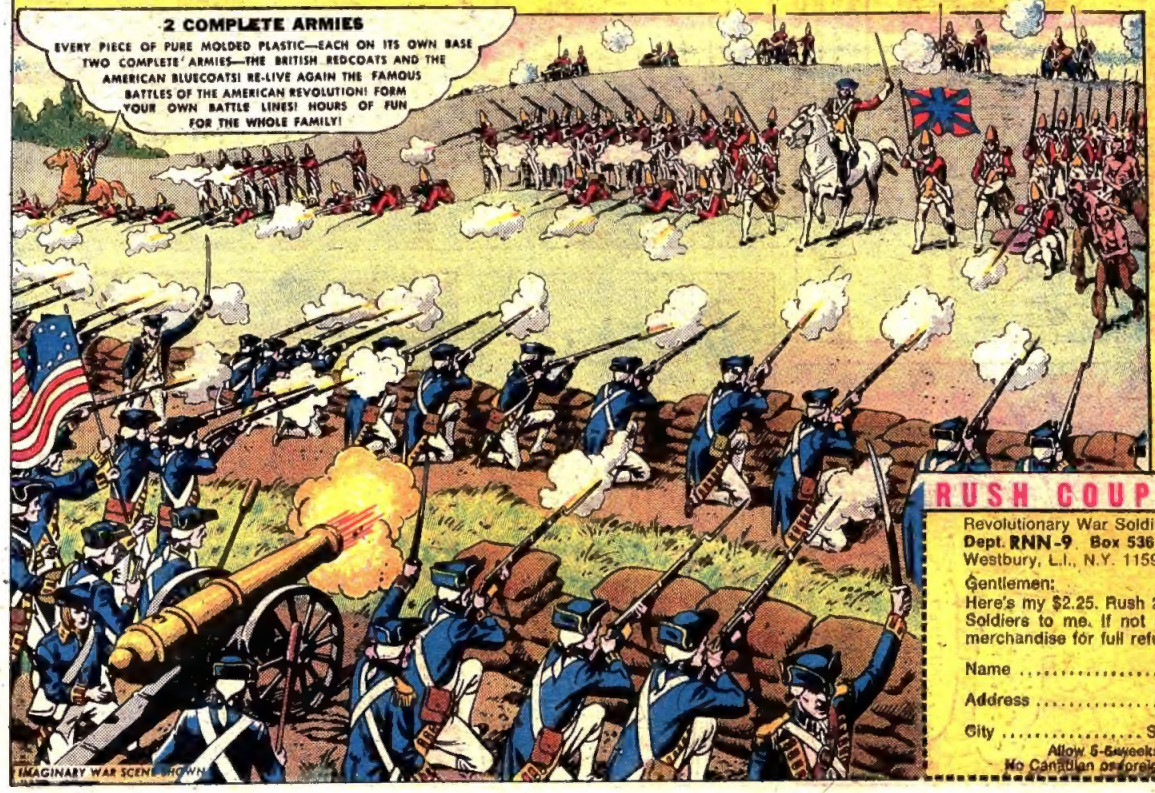
ON SALE DURING THE THIRD WEEK IN JANUARY

204 P.C. REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS set

ONLY $2.25

2 COMPLETE ARMIES

EVERY PIECE OF PURE MOLDED PLASTIC—EACH ON ITS OWN BASE TWO COMPLETE ARMIES—THE BRITISH REDCOATS AND THE AMERICAN BLUECOATS! RE-LIVE AGAIN THE FAMOUS BATTLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION! FORM YOUR OWN BATTLE LINES! HOURS OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



IMAGINARY WAR SCENE SHOWN

HERE'S WHAT YOU GET:

- 36 Dragoons (Cavalryman)
- 12 Shooting Infantrymen
- 12 Marching Infantrymen
- 12 Crouching Infantrymen
- 12 Fifers
- 12 Charging Infantrymen
- 12 Sharpshooters
- 12 Field Cannon
- 12 Cannon Loaders
- 12 Drummers
- 12 Minute Men
- 24 Mohawk Indians
- 12 Officers
- 12 Hessian Troops

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Gentlemen:
Here's my $2.25. Rush 204 Revolutionary War Soldiers to me. If not satisfied I may return merchandise for full refund!

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Address .....

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Allow 5-6 weeks for delivery.
No Canadian or foreign orders accepted!

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In England Write: 843 Harrow Rd, London, N.W. 10.

Check ✓ as many as you wish:

- ☐ Larger Arms
- ☐ Bigger chest
- ☐ Added weight
- ☐ Increased strength
- ☐ Trimmer waist and hips
- ☐ Broader shoulders
- ☐ Better posture

FREE!
FREE!
FREE!

(Mr. Nailon has been training several years!)

Recent testimonials have shown that the musclebuilding know-how imparted in the Newest Bodybuilding method to be introduced to the North American market may really contribute towards building a well muscled, proportionate physique. This method, known as MUSCLE FIGHTER IV *has received much praise from those who have put it to the test. Gains in increased muscular body weight, loss of flab and the improvement of stamina have been little short of phenomenal. Reports from all over North America testify to the effectiveness of the* MUSCLE FIGHTER IV *plan.*

The plan does not involve hours and hours of daily training and it may be followed in the privacy of your own room. Any man between 15 - 50 who has had a fitness checkup (not just a bill of good health under restful conditions) and who is prepared to tailor the program to his particular physical condition and age may apply.

The MUSCLE FIGHTER IV *directors insist that there is no overnight method which can build huge muscles instantly. Gaining muscle size, firming up the body, and increasing strength all takes time and effort - But you as a man who may fit the requirements you may do it!*

This company does not claim that you can build a fantastic body in seven days, or seven weeks. This is a three month course! And it will certainly take considerably longer than that to build a fantastic body like Robert Nailon's shown here! He has been training for a number of years.

"Sirs, my improvement has been great - What a course!"
D.H. FLUSHING, N.Y.

"Dear Sir, I cannot believe the way I feel - This program has really opened my eyes."
TOM KLEIN, N.J.

"Dear friends, MUSCLE FIGHTER IV did it - I will always be appreciative Thanks a million."
RICK THOMPSON, L.A. CA.

"I worked hard and got excellent results more power to your program."
JFK, NEW ORLEANS

"I gained muscle and body weight - Thank you for making me happier."
JOHN FARMER, BROOKLYN N.Y.

"Super appearance - Super feeling - What more can I say - I am proud."
TOM R. TORONTO, ONT.

The MUSCLE FIGHTER IV *plan is not recommended for those who are not perfectly fit and healthy, nor is it advised for those who are lazy indolent or lacking in initiative. This wonderful new program involves no special apparatus whatsoever. A* FREE *book describing how you may get started with this new method will be sent at once. Simply fill in the coupon below! You may* NEVER *regret it! There is no obligation. Only those interested in physical improvement need apply. Limit one book per family. Send no money!*

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Monogram's exciting new Snap-Tite® Vans.

It's no secret that the van craze is sweeping the nation. But you know who's got the hottest vans on the road in model kit form? Monogram.

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So hurry down to your favorite store and ask for Monogram's new Dodge and Chevy Snap-Tite® Vans. There's only one way to describe 'em . . . they're van-tastic!

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